

ORKNEY CAMERA CLUB

Annual Competitions – Projected Images

Notes for Judges

By volunteering to help the club by judging the annual competition you are, of course, free to use whatever judging method you prefer. These notes simply offer a few ideas that might help those new to judging, or who find the notion of competitive photography rather strange. Most camera clubs run competitions, not just for the winning of trophies but for the opportunity to hear the views of people from outside the club (whether photographers themselves or not), to help members take a fresh look at their work and improve their skills.

OCC annual projected image competitions have two sections:

- Monochrome projected images
- Colour projected images.

Each section is divided into four categories:

- People (portraits, candid, crowd scenes etc.)
- Places (landscape, seascape, townscape etc.)
- Natural History (descriptive shots of flora and fauna. NOT landscape/seascape. NOT pets/domesticated animals.)
- Miscellaneous (Might include abstracts, 'fine art' images, still life. Must not belong to the other categories.)

You are asked to choose, in each category:

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd places, and
- Up to 3 'Highly Commended' and up to 3 'Commended' images if you feel that the number and/or quality of the entries justify those awards.

(If you use your full quota of awards, you will have made 74 decisions!!)

You are also asked to choose:

- the best overall monochrome image and
- the best overall colour image.

Questions we suggest you consider in reaching these decisions are:

- How well does the image fit the competition theme/category?
- Does it have an impact artistically (a 'Wow Factor', well composed, interesting, imaginative)?
- Is it technically competent (in focus, well exposed, showing an appropriate range of colours or tones)?
- Do any technical issues spoil the artistry?

- Is it well presented (clean, well displayed)?
- Does its title add (or subtract) anything?

You might, of course, introduce your own criteria as well. Don't be worried about following your heart as much as your head!

Presentation of your verdicts

This might be an unhelpful complication, but, if it does help you to sort out the placings, you might award marks (out of 20?) to each image. If you share these marks with the audience, unplaced members will be able to see how they are doing in relation to the front-runners, but this is entirely up to you. In any case, **we ask you to comment, however briefly, on every entry**. This might be general comments on your reaction to the image and an explanation of why you did, or did not, award it a place. Constructive criticism is as valuable as any number of points.

Please think about how you wish to present the results – it can, for example, help to maintain interest if you save the leading images until the end and announce them in reverse order.

Please read out the title of each image as it appears on the screen.

Please get in touch if you need any help.

We hope these notes are helpful and we thank you very much for giving the club your time and expertise.